



Dated 20th September, 2019

PRESS NOTE

The students of Himachal Pradesh National Law University went on strike and started their protest on September 17th, 2019 demanding various amenities/facilities relating to infrastructure.

The University was established in September, 2016 and remained functional in Himachal Pradesh Judicial Academy Campus till June 27th, 2019. The space, then provided, was insufficient for running of classes, library and other curricular activities. From the very beginning, hostel accommodation was ensured by hiring private buildings in and around the Judicial Academy campus. It is pertinent to note that these buildings are primarily constructed for private use, and thus, cannot be compared with any properly constructed Hostel.

The construction of University campus started in the year 2018. After repeated requests and follow up, the University could get the Administrative Block only on June 28th 2019. The University Campus was shifted to the under-construction building on June 28th 2019. It was done to deal with foreseeable problems with respect to academic and administrative infrastructure which the university has faced since its inception.

In view of the letter received from students, the University on its behalf, releases the following statement:

Student's Concern	Response/Redressal by the University
Basic amenities in the University Campus such as drinking water, washroom etc.	The University has arranged and installed most of the basic facilities including power supply, drinking water through RO and water dispensers at each floor of the Academic Block. Facilities such as printing, photocopy and stationery have also been made available.
Library Facility	To provide better library facilities, three halls in the administrative building have been allocated for the Reading Hall, Stack Hall and Computer Lab respectively. However, the furnishing of well-designed Computer lab and reading hall is under process.
Internet and Wi-Fi Facilities	The University shifted in its new building on June 28 th , 2019 and has entered into a contract with Reliance Jio for the purpose of installing Wi-Fi facility in University Campus as well as in all the hostels. Reliance Jio has already installed Wi Fi at Avya-I Hostel, Avya-II Hostel, Sood Hostel, Dharni Retreat Hostel, Marwag and Judicial Academy Hostels. Reliance Jio has already agreed to provide Wi Fi facilities in the remaining buildings by October 7 th , 2019.

Sports Facilities	Though the open ground for outdoor sports facility is under preparation by the HPPWD, the University has allocated one hall in the Administrative Block and installed two TT Tables, two sets of Carrom Boards and other indoor game facilities.
Curricular and Co-curricular Activities	<p>The University has always addressed issues relating to Curricular and Co-curricular activities such as conference, workshops, guest lectures, moot-court activities, internships etc. These activities are a part of academic training and have been notified and organized in the past and the same will continue to be organized in future as well.</p> <p>All the students of the First Year (Batch 2019-20) attended an intensive Orientation Programme in which Five Hon'ble Judges of Himachal Pradesh High Court including Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court delivered lectures on various themes. In this induction programme, various other experts were invited who addressed the students.</p> <p>In the Academic Session 2018-19, various experts were invited to deliver lectures. These include former Chief Justice of Sri Lanka Justice Mohan Pieris, Ambassador Bhaswati Mukherjee, Prof. S.C. Raina, Prof. M. K. Sinha, Prof. Anand Pawar, Dr. Bidyadhar Majhi, Director (Economics) Competition Commission of India. Hon'ble Justice Vivek Thakur, Judge Himachal Pradesh High Court too visited the University and addressed the students.</p> <p>In the Academic Session 2017-18, the University welcomed His Excellency Acharya Devvrat, the then Hon'ble Governor of Himachal Pradesh who visited the University to celebrate <i>Van Mahotsav</i>. His Excellency also addressed the students. The University conducted a three day National Conference. Justice Madan B. Lokur, the then Judge of Supreme Court of India visited the University. Justice A. K. Sikri, the then Judge of Supreme Court of India visited the University for release of the University Journal (Shimla Law Review). The lecture by Ambassador Mr. M. Ganapathi was arranged for the students.</p> <p>An International Conference is already scheduled to be held on November 9th and 10th, 2019.</p> <p>An Intra University Moot Court was scheduled to be held on September 23rd, 2019.</p> <p>The Debating Society had announced 'Intra University Parliamentary Debate' to be held on September 18th, 2019 which had to be postponed due to protest and strike.</p> <p>One day Workshop on Mediation is scheduled to be held in October, 2019.</p>

	<p>In order to comply with statutory requirement under Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, lectures were delivered to train the members of the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC), faculty, non-teaching staff and students of the University in every academic session.</p> <p>The University has organized Intra-University Cultural, Literary, Sports Fest, Blood Donation Camp and <i>Nukkad-Natak</i> in the University campus and Shimla (The Ridge).</p> <p>The University students participate in various Inter-Moot, Sports, Cultural, Literary and other competitions.</p> <p>As per the requirements of the Curriculum, adequate field related assignments and visits are regularly arranged for. Visits to Prisons, Religious Institutions such as Madrasas and Shrines have been organized in the past and are proposed in the current and following semesters.</p>
Student's Representation at various levels of Academic Administration	<p>The University, as a matter of policy, encourages all students to participate in all the committees viz. Mess Committee, Moot Court Committee, Debate Committee, Legal Aid Committee, Journal Committee, Internship and Placement Committee etc. These Committees have proper and adequate representation of students from various semesters.</p> <p>In case of any reported mismanagement, the University assures their redressal on case to case basis.</p>
Mess Facility	<p>The University invites tender for supplying mess facility to all the students, teaching and non-teaching staff. The University has observed due process in the scrutiny and selection of the bid.</p> <p>The mess is governed by a Mess Committee which has student representatives from each batch. The Committee decides and implements the mess menu and other related matters. It is pertinent to mention that students are given the option to participate and select mess facility or even run their own cooperative mess.</p> <p>The HPWD has assured to hand over to the University, the under-construction temporary mess, with dining hall by October 1, 2019.</p>
Warden for Hostels	<p>Every hostel has a dedicated Warden, who performs his/her duties with utmost care, sincerity and dedication.</p>
Attendance Policy	<p>The University is bound to follow the rules laid down by The Bar Council of India.</p>


Medical Facility	<p>The University already has transport facility for taking students to Government Hospital, Dhami (about 6 Kms. away from the University campus). In case of specialized treatment, they are being taken to Indira Gandhi Medical College, Shimla through transport facility. The First-Aid facility is available in the University Campus and all the Hostels.</p> <p>The provision for purchasing an Ambulance is in the pipeline.</p>
Library Timings	Since the University is running in an under-construction building, keeping in mind the safety and security of the students and staff, the library timing has been fixed from 7:00 a.m. - 06:00 p.m.
ERP	The University had already started the process for getting the ERP installed through CSR, which is in the pipeline.
Hostel Construction	The Construction of another hostel is already in the pipeline through CSR.

It is pertinent to mention the following:

1. It has been wrongly alleged that the toilets were locked. Only Administrative and Academic Blocks were closed as per daily routine after the office hours. All the toilets of all hostels were and are open.
2. It has also been wrongly alleged that students have been forced to vacate the hostels and that no food was served to them. Food was and is being served in the hostels to the students who have still not vacated. No forcible eviction has been done.
3. There has been no fee hike by the University. Fee structure of the University is in strict accordance with the details mentioned in the Prospectus.
4. The University has been able to provide additional infrastructure to students in the last nine months and is engaged in making best endeavors with government support and a positive attitude.

This is to humbly appeal to all the students of Himachal Pradesh National Law University, Shimla that they call off the strike/protest and resolve all the issues through dialogue. Students may kindly not forget that this University is FOR THEM, BY THEM and OF THEM.

GOD BLESS!!


Registrar
HPNLU, Shimla